

## Council OKs raises for elected officials

### ■ But pay hikes won't take effect until after November election

The County Council voted 7-1-1 on Tuesday to increase their salaries as well as those of the county executive, the sheriff and the state's attorney.

Beginning in December, council salaries will increase by \$5,000 to \$84,721 a year and by \$5,000 more in

#### Council Notes JANEL DAVIS

December 2007. The council president will earn 10 percent more.

The county executive, whose annual salary will be \$163,000 in December, will receive \$4,000 annual increases through 2009.

The state's attorney will be paid \$149,215 a year in December, going to \$160,000 in December 2007. The sheriff will earn \$125,000 a year in December.

Pay increases after 2007 will be tied to the Consumer Price Index for the Washington-Baltimore Metropolitan Area.

The vote follows recommendations made by a study committee. It makes salary recommendations every four years.

Councilman Howard A. Denis (R-Dist. 1) of Chevy Chase voted against the increases. Any increases should be put on the ballot for voters to decide, he said.

Councilman Steven A. Silverman (D-At large) of Silver Spring, a candidate for county executive, abstained.

### After-school programs expanded

Also Tuesday, five council members outlined efforts to increase funding for four after-school initiatives at county middle and high schools.

The plan calls for \$2.5 million for the fiscal 2007 budget to be used to:

- Expand the existing Rec Extra Program to 38 middle schools and increase the program from three days to four. The program for ages 11 to 14 offers off-site and after-school and weekend activities. It's now in 10 middle schools. Cost will be about \$1.12 million.

- Expand the Blair Sports Academy, a private-public partnership of tutoring and peer mentoring, for struggling students. Money is already included in the proposed budget for the program at Blair High School; \$295,000 more is needed to implement the program at Wheaton High School.

- Begin after-school programs at Springbrook and Paint Branch high schools, using George B. Thomas

Learning Center for academic support and the county's recreation department for sports and games. Cost per site will be about \$346,000.

- Institute an after-school program at Einstein High School.

### Purple Line support

A coalition of business, environmental, labor and civic groups is following the lead taken by Silverman and Nancy M. Floreen (D-At large) of Garrett Park to jump-start county transportation projects.

Last week the group of Purple Line supporters held a rally asking the County Council to allocate money to build elevators at the south end of the Bethesda Metro station. They said the elevators would speed up the funding and building of the Purple Line, a proposed light rail that would connect Bethesda and College Park.

On April 25, Floreen and Silverman proposed allocating \$82 million to encourage the state to contribute its share of money for Montgomery County projects. The Bethesda station elevators were included on their list of proposed projects.

### Other council actions

- Consumer protection bill revised: The council unanimously approved revisions to the county's consumer protection bill. Councilman Thomas E. Perez (D-Dist. 5) of Takoma Park proposed the updates, which deleted obscure and outdated passages and language, and added information about the county's Office of Consumer Protection.

One of the first duties of the office, which recently opened its offices in the council office building, will be correcting the phone number listed in the Verizon yellow pages. The correct number is 240-777-3636.

### Coming up

- Budget worksessions: The County Council begins working on the budget at 9:30 a.m. Monday. Follow the discussions live on cable channel 6, or on the Web at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/CABLE/cable](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/CABLE/cable).

- Public hearings on special construction projects including a Clarksburg fire station and county animal shelter, salary schedules for medical doctors and portable classrooms will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. The hearings will be held in the Council Office Building at 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville.